

## CLAIMS

1. A method for manipulating objects displayed on a display screen comprising the steps of:

5 providing a first screen object with a multiband region of influence comprising a plurality of bands for invoking operations related to manipulating screen objects displayed on said display screen.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

10 selecting a second screen object,  
establishing a reference datum for said second screen object;  
moving said reference datum such that at least a portion of said reference datum protrudes into a first band of said plurality of bands;  
invoking a first operation corresponding to said first band.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

15 moving said reference datum from a position at which said reference datum protrudes into said first band to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into a second band of said plurality of bands;  
20 invoking a second operation corresponding to said second band.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said first operation comprises locating an edge of said second screen object a predetermined distance from an edge of said first screen object.

25 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said predetermined distance is zero.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said second operation comprises turning off gravity with respect to an edge of said first object corresponding to said multiband region of influence.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein said multiband region of influence comprises a first band and a second band and wherein said first and second bands are non-contiguous.

10 8. The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:  
moving said reference datum from a position at which said reference datum protrudes into said first band to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into none of said plurality of bands;  
invoking a second operation corresponding to said moving of said  
15 reference datum to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into none of said plurality of bands.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said second operation comprises turning on gravity with respect to an edge of said first object corresponding to  
20 said multiband region of influence.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said first band is disposed immediately adjacent to said edge of said first screen object.

25 11. The method of claim 3 wherein said second band is disposed apart from said edge of said first screen object.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of establishing said reference datum for said second screen object comprises establishing said reference datum at a user selected location.

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13. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for manipulating objects displayed on a display screen, said method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a first screen object with a multiband region of influence comprising a plurality of bands for invoking operations related to manipulating screen objects displayed on said display screen.

14. The program storage device of claim 13 wherein said method  
15 further comprises the steps of:  
selecting a second screen object;  
establishing a reference datum for said second screen object;  
moving said reference datum such that at least a portion of said reference datum protrudes into a first band of said plurality of bands;  
20 invoking a first operation corresponding to said first band.

15. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:  
moving said reference datum from a position at which said reference  
25 datum protrudes into said first band to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into a second band of said plurality of bands;

invoking a second operation corresponding to said second band.

16. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said first operation comprises locating an edge of said second screen object a predetermined distance  
5 from an edge of said first screen object.

17. The program storage device of claim 16 wherein said predetermined distance is zero.

10 18. The program storage device of claim 15 wherein said second operation comprises turning off gravity with respect to an edge of said first object corresponding to said multiband region of influence.

15 19. The program storage device of claim 13 wherein said multiband region of influence comprises a first band and a second band and wherein said first and second bands are non-contiguous..

20. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

20 moving said reference datum from a position at which said reference datum protrudes into said first band to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into none of said plurality of bands;

invoking a second operation corresponding to said moving of said reference datum to a position at which said reference datum protrudes into none  
25 of said plurality of bands.

21. The program storage device of claim 17 wherein said second operation comprises turning on gravity with respect to an edge of said first object corresponding to said multiband region of influence.

5 22. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said first band is disposed immediately adjacent to said edge of said first screen object.

23. The program storage device of claim 15 wherein said second band is disposed apart from said edge of said first screen object.

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24. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said method step of establishing said reference datum for said second screen object comprises establishing said reference datum at a user selected location.

FOOTNOTES